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Volume XLIX Special Edition

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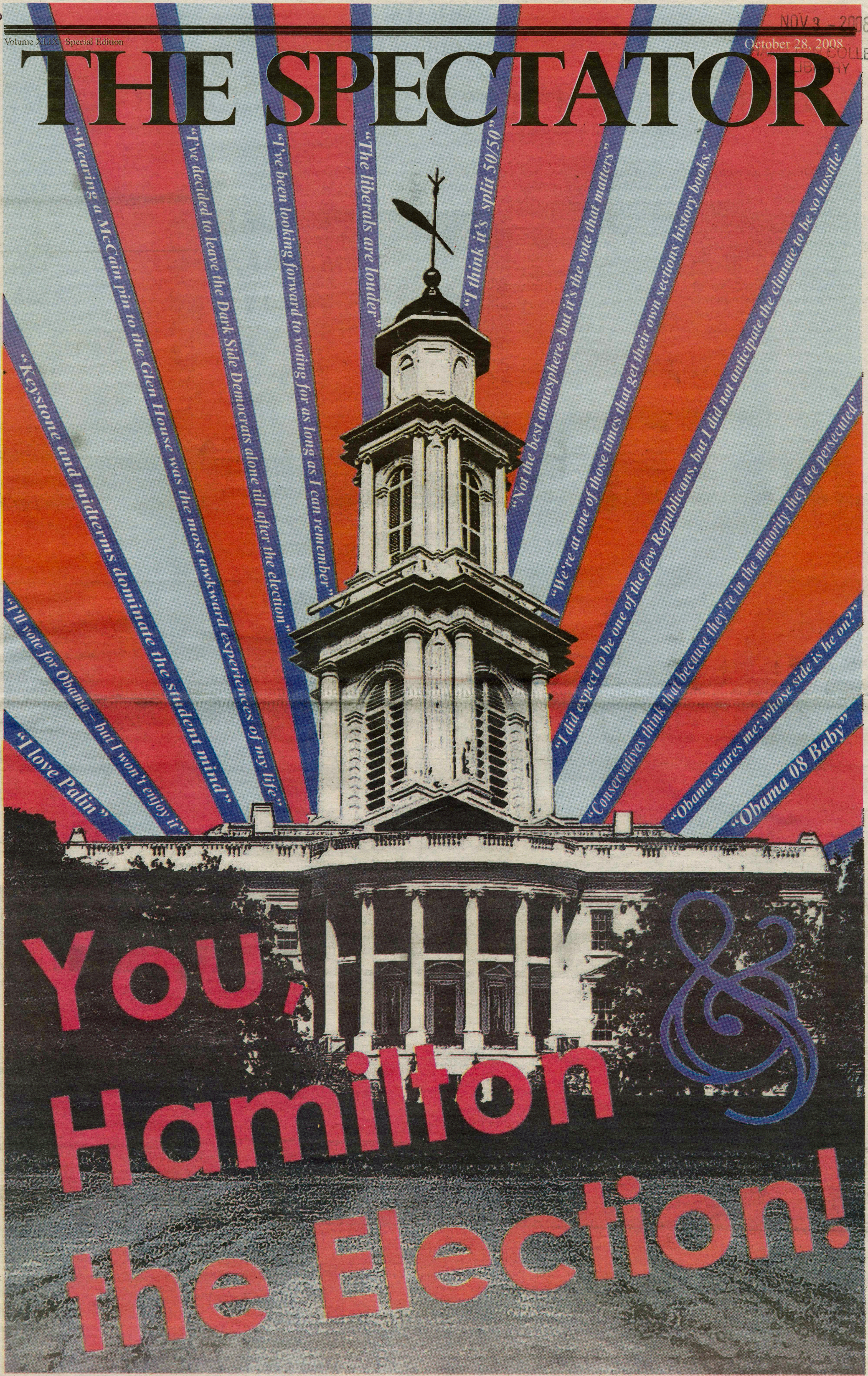
THE SPECTATOR


"Keystone and midterms dominate the student mind"
"I'll vote for Obama – but I won't enjoy it"
"I love Palin"
"Wearing a McCain pin to the Glen House was the most awkward experiences of my life"
"I've decided to leave the Dark Side Democrats alone till after the election"
"I've been looking forward to voting for as long as I can remember"
"The liberals are louder"
"I think it's split 50/50"
"Not the best atmosphere, but it's the vote that matters"
"We're at one of those times that get their own sections history books."
"I did expect to be one of the few Republicans, but I did not anticipate the climate to be so hostile"
"Conservatives think that because they're in the minority they are persecuted"
"Obama scares me; whose side is he on?"
"Obama 08 Baby"

You, Hamilton & the Election!

Liberalism on Campus: Part of a National Trend?

by Scott Bixby '11
NEWS EDITOR

The idea that American colleges and universities are bastions of liberalism has been around for over two decades. In 1984, when Yale-educated George H.W. Bush criticized Michael Dukakis' foreign policy views as having been "born in Harvard Yard's boutique," many described his comment as hypocritical. Pulitzer Prize-winner Russell Baker wrote, "Voters inclined to loathe and fear elite Ivy League schools rarely make fine distinctions between Yale and Harvard. All they know is that both are full of rich, fancy, stuck-up and possibly dangerous intellectuals who never sit down to supper in their undershirt no matter how hot the weather gets."

Schools like Hamilton College, (small, Eastern, and private), often develop reputations for this brand of ivory tower liberalism. Whether or not those reputations are earned is a matter of contention, but in the current political landscape, many American college students are fitting the mold. A national poll by Harvard University's Institute of Politics found that students between the ages of 18 and 24 strongly prefer Senator Barack Obama to Senator John McCain by a margin of almost two-to-one. 56 percent of likely voters in this group stated that they were planning on or leaning towards voting for Obama, with McCain supporters trailing behind at 30 percent.

Will Leubsdorf '10, vice president of the Hamilton College Democrats, partially attributed this rising trend to President George Bush. "I think it's also important to remember the broader political context when looking at the Hamilton political scene… Organizations like Amnesty, SJI, and Democracy Matters only came into existence [at Hamilton] in the last three years. Who deserves the credit? George W. Bush. The failure of conservative ideology and the Bush Administration has sparked a surge in liberal political participation throughout the country," said Leubsdorf. "I know that the number of College Democrats chapters has increased sharply over the last 8 years, and just in New York State about fifteen new College Dems chapters were founded during this semester."

This support among America's educated youth may be proving to be a double-edged sword for the Obama campaign, however. One of strongest narratives in McCain's presidential campaign is the inherent "elitism" of liberal politicians like Obama. In a joint interview with NBC's Brian Williams, McCain and his running mate Alaska Governor Sarah Palin agreed that an elitist is "anyone who thinks that they're better than someone else."

Although most colleges embrace the identity of intellectual salad bowls, home to a diverse array of opinions from which students can garner a truly universal education, the assumption that collegiate faculties are a stronghold of liberalism may not be far from the truth. A 2005 survey conducted by political science professors from three North American universities found that 50 percent of full-time professors describe themselves as Democrats, while only 11 percent identified as Republicans.

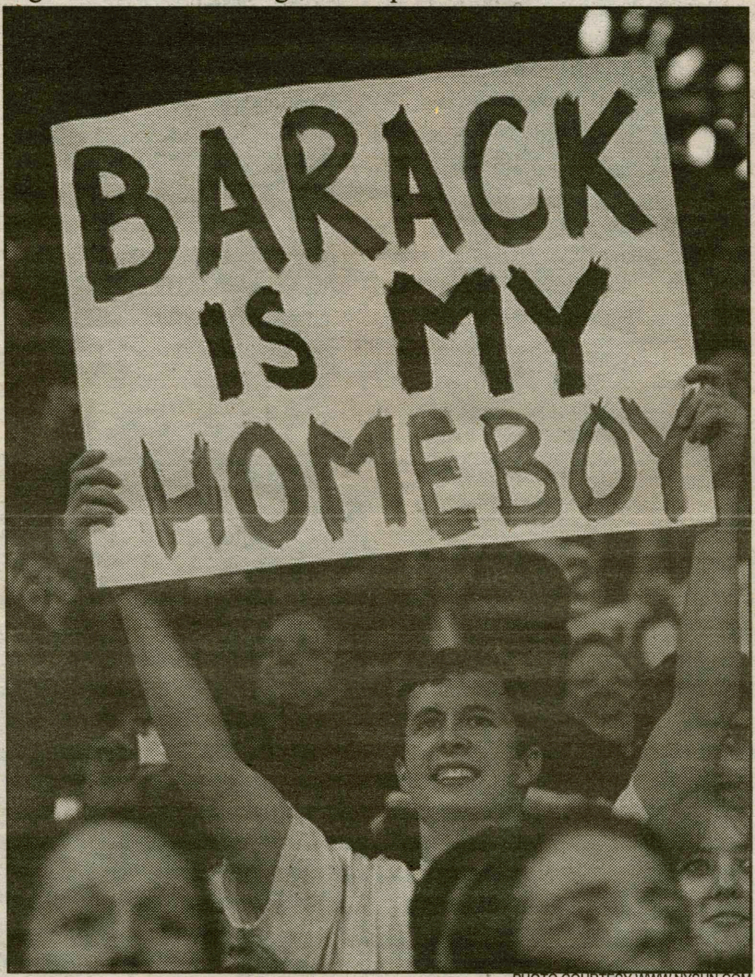


PHOTO COURTESY WWW.NYSUN.COM

College campuses have become one of Sen. Obama's most dependable sources of support and volunteers.

Conservative blogger John Eberhard of IntellectualConservative.com believes that the liberal predilections of faculty towards liberal politics present "a potential propaganda situation" towards college-aged youth.

"One would hope that in sending your kids to college, they would be exposed to a variety of knowledge and ideas, they would gain valuable skills that would serve them well in the job marketplace and in the workplace, they would be taught how to think, and they would be taught leadership skills," Eberhard writes. "I think the above information makes it pretty clear that the tilt on campuses is decidedly to the left."

Jonathan Knight, director of academic freedom and tenure for the American Association of University Professors, however, disagrees. Regarding the results of the study on American college professors, Knight stated, "It's hard to see that these liberal views cut very deeply into the education of students. In fact, a number of studies show the core values that students bring into the university are not very much altered by being in college."

The assertion that young people may lean towards liberal politics, regardless of the political views of their college's faculty, seems to have a basis in truth. According to a New York Times/CBS/MTV poll from June of last year, young Americans are much more likely to favor universal health care, looser regulations on immigration and the legalization of gay marriage than older Americans.

Some of this can be attributed to societal changes that have occurred in the past ten years, when young voters of today were still growing up. America's youth are much more likely to interact with people of different backgrounds and sexual orientations than their parents did at their age, exposures that often foster more liberal viewpoints on issues like immigration and gay marriage.

But demographic changes may not be the only reason why the youth vote is expected to break records this year; according to Leubsdorf, Obama's nomination is a major catalyst.

"Obama is our era's Eugene McCarthy [or] Bobby Kennedy, inspiring people who didn't give a s--- about politics before his campaign."

Debate Will Kick-off Election

by Elizabeth Marris '10
NEWS WRITER

Amid discussion of the visibility of a certain large Slavic nation, impeccably placed references to a rough-and-tumble Pennsylvanian childhood, and the seemingly endless analysis of plumbers with monosyllabic names, the actual issues at stake in the upcoming presidential election become obfuscated.

I've heard enough confusing rhetoric and impertinent anecdotes. I'd just really like some straightforward information on the candidates' ideas and policies," explained Jared Pienkos '09. Fortunately, the College Democrats and the College Republicans have a remedy. The two organizations have orchestrated a debate for Wednesday, October 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

Scheduled for six days before the election, the Democrats and Republicans alike hope the debate will spread political awareness on campus. Three members of each group will be debating, moderated by government professor Morgan Marietta.

The issues under debate are the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the economy, and judicial interpretation. There will also be a question and answer session in which audience members are encouraged to ask for clarification or raise other issues. Debating for the Democrats will be Kye Lippold '10, Vice President of the Hamilton Democrats on campus Will Leubsdorf '10 and President of the Democrats Rachel Horowitz '09. Tim Minella '09, Thomas Cheeseman '12, and President of the Republicans Liz Farrington '10 will represent the Republicans.

Both parties are attempting to maintain a sense of realism on the election's outcome. "Due to the unpopularity of the current administration, I think most Republicans have been bracing themselves for a loss in this upcoming election," said Farrington, "But it is astounding that a Democratic victory does not appear more obvious than it does; as it is, I am pleased with our chances."

Horowitz was slightly more confident in her party: "If you look at the polls, it implies that Obama will win. I am very hopeful, but I don't want to jinx anything. I am sadly aware that the Democrats are entirely capable of screwing things up at the last minute."

Horowitz and Farrington agree that Hamilton students recognize the importance of this year's election, and that campus sentiment tends largely toward Obama. "Everyone is pretty excited. There is a lot more political dialogue going on among students, and we have had especially high turnouts at our meetings. People here realize how important this election is, and I think they generally support Obama," stated Horowitz.

Farrington concurred, "I think that most of us recognize the historic nature of this election in particular, and interest is resultantly heightened. Most students who are openly political seem to support Obama. To say that conservatives are not the majority on campus would be a laughable understatement. She added, " Even those who do support McCain are often not inclined to say so explicitly."

Given the consequence of this election, both organizations have had particularly industrious semesters. The College Republicans are currently trying to expand their organization and increase their activity.

In the upcoming weeks and months they will be participating in local rallies and hope to eventually bring a speaker to campus. The College Democrats have been actively campaigning for Congressman Michael Arcuri, of New York District 24 and congressional hopeful Dan Maffei of New York District 25. They also traveled to Pennsylvania to work on Democratic campaigns there, and have been doing phonebanking for Obama. Students should look forward to the Democrats' next event. On election night, they will be hosting a party to watch the election returns.

The Local Election Ballot

For those of you who are unaware of the local elections, here is a look at some of the people running for local offices in the Upstate New York area.

Justice, New York Supreme Court; District 5
*** David Murad, Democratic, Working Families**
*** Tom Cerio, Republican, Independence, Conservative**

United States Representative; District 24
*** Richard L. Hanna, Republican, Independence, Conservative**
*** Michael A. Arcuri, Democratic, Working Families**

State Senator; District 47
*** Joseph A. Griffo, Republican, Independence, Conservative**
*** Michael W. Boncella, Working Families**

Member of the State Assembly; District 115
*** David R. Townsend, Jr., Republican, Working Families**
*** Daniel L. LeClair, Conservative**

Mixed Feelings on Campus Campaign Awareness

by Kara Labs '09
News editor

Since this year is an election year, both the Hamilton College Republicans and Democrats have been very busy putting together events to raise voter awareness on campus. *The Spectator* spoke with the President and Vice President of the Hamilton College Democrats and the President of the Hamilton College Republicans to get their ideas about election awareness.

PHOTO COURTESY COMMERCIALAPPEAL.COM

Democratic Presidential Nominee Senator Barack Obama with running mate Senator Joe Biden.

The Hamilton Democrats have been busy this year. Rachel Horowitz '09, president of the Hamilton Democrats, had this to say: "Because this year is an election year, the Democrats have spent a lot of time this [semester] on campaign activities. We have gone to campaign in the NY 25 Congressional District, around Syracuse. It is an open seat and Dan Maffei, the democratic candidate, came very close to defeating the incumbent two years ago. The seat is listed as one of the top seats to change parties in the country. We have also worked in the NY 24 Congressional District, in which Hamilton is located. Michael Arcuri was elected for the first time two years ago. Many Hamilton students worked on his campaign in the previous election. We plan on campaigning for Maffei again the weekend prior to the election.

The Democrats are also campaigning for Obama a little closer to home. "In terms of the presidential election, we have held two phone banks, where we called voters in Pennsylvania. We plan on having two more, the Sunday and Monday before the election… several members of the Democrats are going to Philadelphia to campaign for Obama," stated Horowitz.

On campus, the Democrats and Republicans will be holding a debate on Tuesday. The Democrats will also be hosting an election results watching party on election night at 9 p.m. in Bristol.

The Hamilton Republicans, headed by Elizabeth Farrington '10, have also tried to raise awareness about this year's election. In addition to sponsoring and planning a debate with the Democrats, the Republicans will also "be involved in local efforts, both for the presidential election and for other political offices."

In terms of how informed the Hamilton campus is, both groups cited Engage '08 as a healthy way to get involved with the election. Farrington stated, "I think that some groups, most notably Engage '08, have expended great effort to keep the student body informed on election issues. It is difficult to measure their success, but I do believe that students are relatively aware of what is happening in this election. Certainly media coverage has not been lax. The Democratic and Republican student leadership [have] also been contributing political pieces to *The Spectator* to illustrate differences in the parties on pertinent topics, and we hope that has been elucidative and helpful to students."

The Hamilton Democrats had many things to say on the topic of how informed they believed Hamilton is. "I think the campus is well informed on the philosophical differences between the candidates, comments Will Leubsdorf '10, vice president of the College Democrats. "Students here are highly informed on McCain and Obama's competing visions for the country, as well as some of their broader policy views. However, many students are ill-informed on the specific polices of the candidates, especially in some of the less sexy issues like education, and highly complex issues such as the economy. To be fair, I'm not sure I fully comprehend Obama's economic plan, although I got the general gist of it down pretty well."

Horowitz concurred, "In general, I feel the campus is aware of and excited about the election. After several of the debates I heard people all over campus talking about them. Also, we have had high turnout throughout the year at our weekly meetings, which I feel is indicative of the importance many people assign to the election.

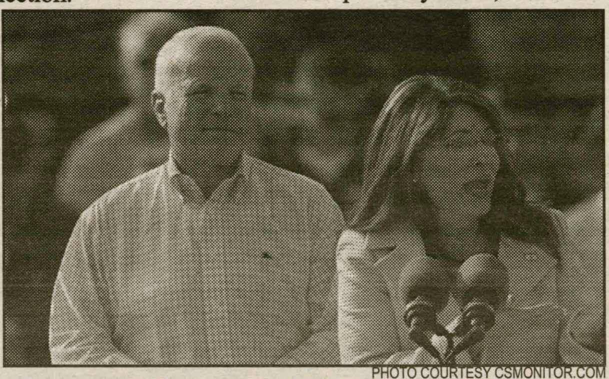


PHOTO COURTESY CSMONITOR.COM

Republican Presidential Nominee Senator John McCain stands with running mate Governor Sarah Palin.

"Engage '08 has done an excellent job of encouraging and facilitating voter registration as well as informing people how to obtain absentee ballots. We have worked with them as much as possible. Several other organizations have also held election-related events, including the Action Forum, which [held] a phone bank for Obama, and the BLSU, which sponsored an Obama activity where people could make shirts and become more informed about important issues in the election."

On issues that the student population should be looking into when voting, both Horowitz and Leubsdorf cite the state of the economy as an issue everyone should be looking at. But more than that, Horowitz continues, "I feel that one of the most important issues for students, as it directly affects us, is the policies of the candidates toward funding for higher education. Hamilton tuition is expensive, and both candidates have differing ideas concerning how to help students pay for college.

"Iraq and Afghanistan are two other important issues. The people sent to fight in those countries are of our generation, and many Hamilton students probably know, or went to high school with, someone who has served in one of these countries. What happens in Iraq and Afghanistan will affect not only the present global situation, but the future ability of the United States to influence other countries and how other countries view the United States."

Leubsdorf also cited early childhood education as an issue that is critically important, "especially when looking at its impact on broader education policies," but often gets overlooked.

Farrington continued by discussing domestic issues: "Though the head of the executive branch has an exaggerated role in economic growth or decline in the popular consciousness, it remains a problem with particular relevance to all of us. A great deal of emphasis is always placed on foreign policy, as well, but as students there oft overlooked domestic issues that probably have a greater immediate impact. Some of these are education and immigration reforms, tax policy, and methods of judicial interpretation."

As far as Hamilton student voter turnout for this election is concerned, Leubsdorf feels that maybe "somewhere between half and two thirds" will end up voting.

Horowitz is hopeful, saying, "I wish I could say that 100 percent of the eligible student population would vote, but I do not believe it will occur. I think that a higher than usual portion of the student body will vote, perhaps 60 to 70 percent, although this may just be wishful thinking on my part."

Farrington takes a more bleak outlook in regard to voter turnout for this election: "I cannot venture a guess on how many people will vote in this election. People are inclined to dissemble about their participation in the process, and even those who say they intend to vote often do not do so. Observing two candidates over the course of their campaigns is disillusioning for many, and even those who do vote tend to decide within days of November 4. It is also worth noting that, unfortunately, many Republicans in particular do not vote because they live in a predominantly Democratic state and feel their input is meaningless. The hassle of absentee ballots tends to exaggerate this effect."

Campus Votes Survey Challenge: Comparing Campus Political Activity

by Julia Mulcrone '11
News writer

This week, the Hamilton Community was urged to participate in a survey that will help compare Hamilton's political activity to that of other schools throughout the United States. An e-mail, generated by Meredith Harper Bonham, executive assistant to the President and secretary to the Board of Trustees, invited students to participate in the national survey that she described as "a voluntary initiative sponsored by Tufts to determine voter turnout rates among undergraduate college students."

Hamilton's invitation to take part in this initiative resulted from its membership in the Campus Compact, an organization that, according to compact.org, "is a national coalition of more than 1,100 college and university presidents—representing some 6 million students—dedicated to promoting community service, civic engagement, and service-learning in higher education." Over the years, Hamilton's membership in this organization has led to funding that has made possible student involvement in activities, such as Project Shine, that promote civic engagement. Bonham stated that, "President Stewart immediately agreed [to this invitation], given the College's history with and commitment to civic engagement."

According to the Campus Votes Challenge website, activecitizen.tufts.edu, the survey, run by both Tufts University and Campus Compact, seeks to compile data about students' voting practices while simultaneously aiming to "increase student voting rates." The survey is a measure of political participation rather than affiliation, only asking participants to indicate whether or not they are registered to vote and if they plan on voting in the November election. It then asks participants to supply a personal address and birth date, which will be used later in determining whether or not they actually voted in the election. The survey does not require the participants to supply this personal information and asks for their permission for a follow-up. Additionally, the Campus Votes Challenge website guarantees that students' names will be replaced with anonymous identifiers before analysis begins.

Because of long processing times, these results will not be known until late spring or early summer 2009, at which point statistics from individual schools will be published and ranked.

These results will reveal useful third-party information regarding voter turnout at Hamilton, providing an excellent tool by which the Hamilton community can assess its political participation in comparison to that of other schools. In providing a statistical context for Hamilton's political participation, this initiative will surpass the reasonable capabilities of current Hamilton political tracking polls and organizations to measure Hamilton's political involvement. With results from this survey, these political organizations will be able to assess whether or not changes need to be made in the political atmosphere on campus.

Bonham is optimistic about the Hamilton community's participation in the event. She says, "Our students have traditionally been very active in election issues, and I believe that that will be reflected in their response to the Campus Votes Challenge." Unfortunately, it will not be known for many months if her prediction is valid, or if Hamilton needs to reconsider the effectiveness of its institutions in promoting political involvement.

iVoTe
Campus Compact
WWW.COMPACT.ORG/VOTE
PHOTO COURTESY COMPACT.ORG

How Will We Power Tomorrow's America?

by Elijah LaChance '10
Science & Technology Editor

The next president faces challenges and questions on almost every level. From taxes to domestic policies to foreign affairs, the decisions made by the person in the Oval Office over the next few years will indelibly shape the world that billions of people, and their children, live in. Perhaps, though, no question is more critical than this one: what fuel will the world use to power industry and the daily activities of these billions without destroying the planet we all live on?

History shows that new fuels engender revolutions of industry, commerce, politics, government, and even entertainment. The Industrial Revolution is widely accepted as being the largest change to the human way of life since the advent of agriculture, and the revolution was almost entirely based on the ability to harness new fuels. Wood gave way to steam and coal, which have given way – at least in part – to the world's major fuel today: petroleum. Now, whether it's through the lens of becoming independent of Middle East oil reserves or of conserving the planet, the candidates to become the 44th president of the United States are addressing the issue of powering the country in the 21st century.

Both candidates are replete with ideas and policy innovations. Senator Obama has pledged to put one million plug-in hybrid cars – cars that can get up to 150 miles per gallon – on the road by 2015. He has also said he will provide a $7,000 tax credit for the purchase of advanced technology vehicles, require the U.S. to produce at least 60 billion barrels of advanced biofuels by 2030, and mandate that all new vehicles are flex fuel (that is, they can switch between using traditional gasoline and liquid biofuels). Senator McCain would give a $5000 tax credit to those who buy a zero-emission vehicle and offer a $300 million prize for the development of a battery package that has the size, capacity, cost, and power to leapfrog the commercially available plug-in hybrids or electric cars. Both candidates have pledged to develop so-called "clean coal" technologies, which are intended to reclaim the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere while burning coal. At various times, both candidates have supported and criticized the idea of ethanol-based fuels.

Almost any proposal that promises to limit environmental damage while limiting discord in the Middle East and saving people money is bound to be received well. In fact, most proposals sound too good to be true, and in large part they are. Assistant Professor of Biology Michael McCormick cautions that when looking at any new fuel option as a replacement for petroleum, aspiring analysts must look at the entire life cycle of the fuel. "What I mean by life cycle is just don't look at the emissions of producing energy or burning fuel, but also what it costs to produce things to package the energy, how the energy is transported, how it's disposed, and choosing an option that reduces net emissions."

Among the biofuels, McCormick says the two most serious options are ethanol and biodiesel. While both candidates have expressed qualified support for ethanol technologies in some form, questions abound about whether ethanol would be a long-term solution or a stop-gap measure even at best, and McCormick points out that producing the corn for ethanol – or other crops for biofuels – would require putting aside land that would otherwise be used for food, contributing to rising food costs. Also, thousands of tons of pesticides and fertilizer are used in the process, causing potentially massive runoff problems. Furthermore, fertilizers are a petroleum product. As McCormick points out, "You have to look closer and see if you're really getting away from petroleum or not."

For all their political differences, both campaigns strongly support the idea of "clean coal." However, recapturing carbon dioxide is only part of the problem; the large amounts of sulfur in coal lead to acid rain. McCormick says his first research project as an undergraduate involved looking at ways to remove the sulfur from coal, and the process still has not been perfected. Nevertheless, it is almost certain that new coal-burning power plants will find funding no matter which man gains the seat in the Oval Office.

Nuclear power is a highly controversial power source, which McCain supports with conditions and which Obama has repeatedly said needs to be phased out. However, when compared to the environmental impact of conventional fuels, nuclear power compares favorably in many respects. The flip side is that large-scale nuclear meltdown at a power plant could render the area around it uninhabitable. One option seems to be using nuclear power as a go-between before switching to a cleaner fuel. McCormick says, "I consider myself a pragmatist, and I think we need to take another look as nuclear as an interim solution."

Other options include solar power, wind power, and hydroelectric. Hydrogen, which would be produced by using sunlight to split water molecules or by harvesting the output of certain microbes, has also been considered as a power source. However, each of these options have drawbacks as well. Solar and wind would require large tracts of land to be put aside, hydroelectric would disrupt water cycles and the mating patterns of fish. All these technologies would require new infrastructure and development. In order to find a workable solution, either candidate will need to look at, as McCormick says, "the whole life cycle" of a solution, not just emissions or public perception. The content of the next chapter of world history waits for the decision.

Speakin' "Palin"

by Allison Eck '12
Science & Technology Writer

Several weeks ago, Harvard psychologist Steven Pinker examined the validity of the controversy that Gov. Sarah Palin's behavior has aroused. While his scientific article in the *New York Times* was unbiased, his knowledge of the psychology of language may change the way voters see the vice presidential nominee's demeanor and dialect. On the other hand, Dr. Pinker clearly believed that the way in which Palin conducted herself in her interview with Katie Couric was ineffective.

For example, Pinker pointed out that when we engage in a conversation, we take a risk. "In a conversation, you have to build your sentence phrase by phrase, monitoring the reaction of your listener, while aiming for relevance to the question," he wrote. When Palin spewed out perfunctory, unrelated statements in response to Couric's questions, the listeners were left somewhat confused.

So the fact that Palin memorizes rote facts and topics, rather than the meat of the issues, is somewhat unsettling. It could be indicative of one of two things: either she really doesn't understand current affairs, or she merely doesn't have the capacity to speak about them in public. If the latter is truth, then a psychologist would recommend to Ms. Palin a more casual approach to a one-on-one in

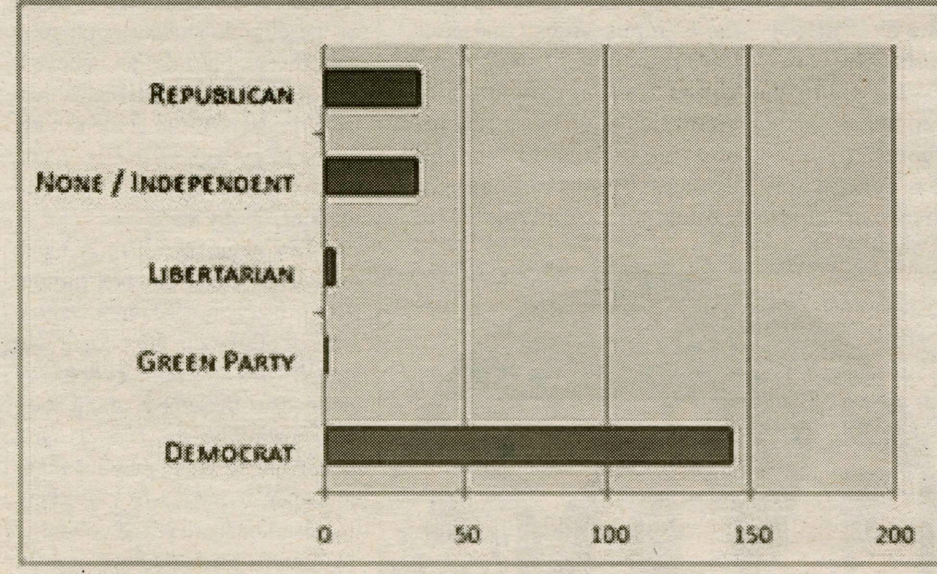
*see **Postulates**, page 5*

CAMPUS POLITICS: SURVEY RESULTS

campus campaign climate: who's voting and who are they voting for?

Last week The Spectator surveyed the campus on their political views. Here are some of the results...

What party, if any, do you consider yourself to be affiliated with?



Who do you plan on voting for?

McCain/Palin: 15 percent

Obama/Biden: 85 percent

303 people participated in the survey

Is this your fist time voting?
No: 35 people
Yes: 185 people

Do Hamilton professors make their political beliefs known in class?
No: 80 people
Yes: 139 people

On a scale of 1-7, how often do Hamilton professors make their political affiliations known in the classroom? (1 - Never) (3 - Sometimes) (5 - All the time.)
Average (142 people voted): 2.92

On a scale of 1-5, do you perceive most professors on campus as...? (1 - Very Republican) (3 - Even Split) (5 - Very Democratic)
Average (147 people voted): 4.04

On a scale of 1-5, do you feel pressured in class to align yourself to your professors political affiliation? (1 - I feel no pressure at all) (3 - I feel some pressure) (5 - I feel uncomfortable disagreeing with my professor's political ideals in class.)
Average (143 people voted); 1.979

Is Hamilton a politically charged campus?
No: 113 people
Yes: 105 people

Major Campaign Issues: The Candidates' Stances

by Nicholas Berry '09
Sci & Tech Lead Writer

Research Funding/ Innovation

Obama	McCain
• Double federal funding for basic research over ten years and expand research initiatives at colleges and universities. Place special emphasis on supporting young researchers at the beginning of their careers, and backing high-risk, high-return research. • Ensure that our patent laws protect legitimate rights while not stifling innovation and collaboration. • Supports the idea of harnessing science and technology to address the "grand challenges" of the 21st century, including issues involving energy, health, food, water, national security, information technology, and manufacturing capacity.	• Keep capital gains tax low to promote innovation. • Establish permanent Research and Development tax credit equal to 10 percent of wages spent on R&D. • Lower corporate tax rate to 25 percent to retain investment in US technologies. • Push for greater resources for patent office and pursue protection of intellectual property. • Eliminate wasteful earmarks in order to allocate science and technology investments. • Increase basic research at National Science Foundation • Ensure that basic research is addressing needs of nation and that results can enter market place.

Stem Cells and Genomics

Obama	McCain
• Reverse Bush Administration ban on federal funding for embryonic stem cell research on cell lines created after August 9, 2001 and expand such research. Make sure such research is conducted ethically with rigorous oversight. • While recognizing that "reprogrammed" adult stem cells have been used in treatment of some diseases, does not think that they can yet replace embryonic stem cells. Embryonic, not adult, stem cells should remain "gold standard." • Supports Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act.	• Make sure genetic information kept private and that there is no genetic discrimination. • Promotes use of genetically engineered crops to help feed the starving people of the world. • Gene therapy with appropriate oversight. • Supports federal funding for embryonic stem cell research, but believes clear lines should be drawn that reflect a refusal to sacrifice moral values and ethical principles for the sake of scientific progress. • Supports use of adult stem cells that do not involve use of embryos.

"One of the things that I'm always struck by when I talk to engineers and scientists who are in their 50s and 60s is how many say they were inspired by JFK and the space program for going into science and math. And one area where I think we could actually do that is to really make a huge effort around energy independence."

- Barack Obama

"We can move forward, and clean up our climate, and develop green technologies, and alternative energies for battery-powered cars, so that we can clean up our environment and at the same time get our economy going by creating millions of jobs."

- John McCain

Science Education

Obama	McCain
• Create 40,000 Teaching Service Scholarships to increase the quantity and quality of PreK-12 math and science teachers, especially in underserved areas, by paying undergraduate and graduate teaching education costs. • Create Teacher Residency Academies to add 30,000 new teachers to high need schools and train thousands of science and math teachers. • Create $500 million fund that builds upon existing federal education technology programs to better integrate technology into schools and create technology-based curriculums. • Triple the number of science research fellowships.	• Fully fund America Competes Act to help increase number of math and science majors. • Grow public understanding and popularity of mathematics and science by reforming mathematics and science education in schools. • Provide opportunities in all grades for students to explore sciences through experimentation, fairs, and competitions. • Strengthen skills of existing science and math teachers through training and education, through profession development programs and community colleges. • Supports use of adult stem cells that do not involve use of embryos.

NASA and Space Exploration

Obama	McCain
• Establish robust program for human and robotic exploration of space that preserves space workforce, engages international allies, and draws on private sector. • Calls to strengthen and revitalize NASA missions in space science, weather, climate research, and aeronautical research. • Re-establish National Aeronautics and Space Council to oversee and coordinate the space-related programs of various federal agencies as well as develop a comprehensive policy for space exploration.	• Ensure US leadership in space by promoting an exploration agenda that will combine the discoveries of unmanned probes with new technologies to take Americans to the Moon, Mars, and beyond. • Recognizes importance of space exploration in developing new technologies and better understanding our world and universe. Wants to ensure that US has balanced approach to space investments along with proper management controls. • Focus on space exploration, not for how it reflects America's national power and pride.

Postulates on Palin's Pronunciation Fall Short

*from **Speakin'**, page 4*

terview. Here's a scenario that Pinker addresses: say Bob and Jill are having coffee.

BOB: So Jill, what do you think about the economic crisis? What needs to be done?

JILL: You know, I think a good barometer here, as we try to figure out has this been a good time or a bad time in America's economy, is go to a kid's soccer game on Saturday, and turn to any parent there on the sideline and ask them. "How are you feeling about the economy?"

This was, in fact, Palin's response to a similar question. In her interviews, Sarah Palin ignores the facial expressions of the questioners, evades their remarks, and altogether avoids interacting with them on a psychological or social level. This is the inherent trait that drives people away – while this type of behavior may be acceptable when speaking to an inanimate object such as a camera, citizens of the US desire in their vice president a genuine, charismatic leader, not one who will address them as if reading from a textbook.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology John Edlund commented, "A lot of it ties into people's biases before [the candidates] go into [an interview]. For example, the confirmation bias says that a certain segment of the people will love everything she says, while there will be another segment that, no matter how smart she may appear, will hate everything about her. For that 80 percent of the population, her interviews are not going to affect their opinions. However, it seems that her speech does violate normal communication."

Edlund provided some insight as to how Dr. Pinker may have missed an important point.

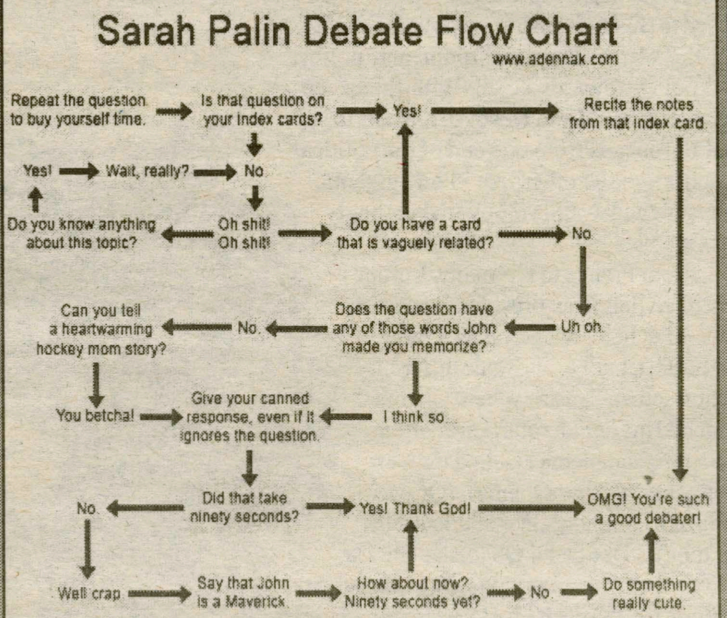
"What he didn't take into account is that there is an audience present at the debates and she very potentially could be getting positive feedback from them," he noted.

Dr. Pinker's analysis does not end there. He offers some evidence on behalf of Palin's rhetoric. In her numerous speeches, she frequently dropped her g's, mispronounced "nuclear" (which caused many to groan and exclaim, "She's just another Bush!"), and flaunted her folksiness and hockey mom-esque aura by saying such words as "darn" and "doggone." No doubt, this kind of colloquial chatter isn't really formal…but Pinker adds a bit of perspective.

"But it would be unfair to question the authenticity of her accent or to use it as a measure of her intellect or sophistication," he wrote. "No, "nucular" is not a sign of ignorance. This reversal of vowel-like consonants (nuk-l'-yer becomes nuk-y'-ler) is common in the world's languages, and is no more illiterate than pronouncing "iron" the way most Americans do, as 'eye-yern' instead of 'eye-ren.'"

Pinker also noted that Palin's tendency to drop her g's is not uncommon. Linguists refer to the sounds at the end of "going" and "goin,'" respectively, as "eng" and "en". These sounds may look different, but in reality the only difference between the pronunciation of the two is that the first involves touching the tip of the tongue to the gum ridge, whereas the second requires that the tongue touch the soft palate. Either way, if you listen very closely, both are quite similar. Most of us alternate between the two pronunciations constantly without even noticing it. While lower-class speakers often appear to illustrate this phenomenon more often, it's a habit of which we are all guilty. To her credit, Sarah Palin used this to appeal to the ordinary blue-collar citizen, who would most likely find himself subconsciously attracted to this style of speaking.

Both sides of the argument offer advantages and disadvantages of Palin's speaking style. Ultimately, Dr. Pinker has shown that language does play a role in the decisions we make about politics. However, we need to gain some perspective if we want to make a wise and calculating decision.

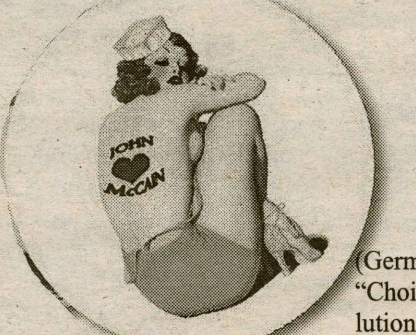

Sarah Palin Debate Flow Chart
www.adennak.com
Repeat the question to buy yourself time.
Is that question on your index cards?
Yes!
Recite the notes from that index card
Yes!
Wait, really?
No
Do you know anything about this topic?
Oh shit! Oh shit!
Do you have a card that is vaguely related?
No
Can you tell a heartwarming hockey mom story?
No.
Does the question have any of those words John made you memorize?
Uh oh.
You betcha!
Give your canned response, even if it ignores the question.
I think so
No.
Did that take ninety seconds?
Yes! Thank God!
OMG! You're such a good debater!
Well crap
Say that John is a Maverick
How about now? Ninety seconds yet?
No
Do something really cute.

WWW.ADENNAK.COM

Gov. Palin's speaking habits have inspired much humor.

Silent International Spectators: *Yes, We Care!*

By Bianca Dragan '10
Features Editor



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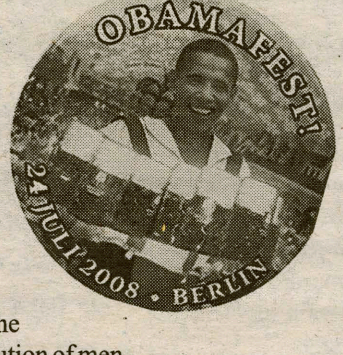
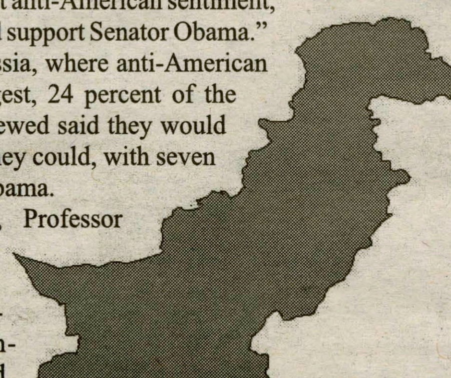


Dear American Reader,

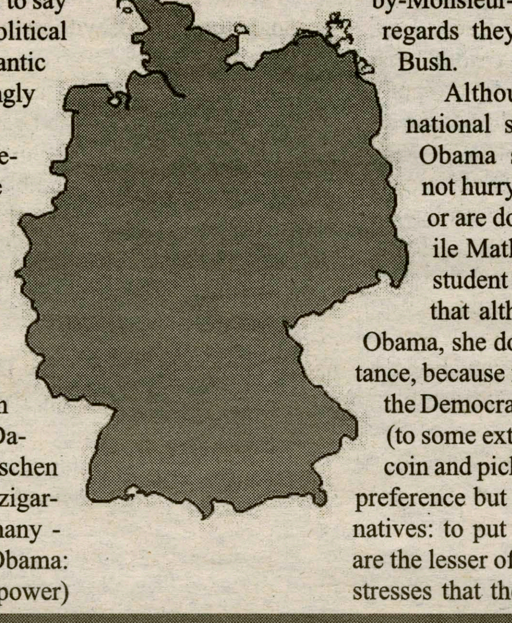
Are you a responsible American citizen? Are you exercising the freedom to vote that the young American soldiers are fighting for? The international community is watching you. After November 4, it will judge your decision. So you might want to learn what the world thinks about the U.S. elections and the candidates.

According to the Transatlantic Trends 2008, a popular survey conducted in June 2008 examining American and European attitudes toward the transatlantic relationship, 69 percent of Europeans viewed Senator Obama favorably, compared with 26 percent who viewed Senator McCain favorably. Also, 47 percent of the Europeans interviewed (representing Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Bulgaria, and Romania) believed that relations between the United States and Europe would improve if Senator Barack Obama were elected, whereas if Senator John McCain is elected, a nearly identical percentage (49 percent) believed relations would stay the same.

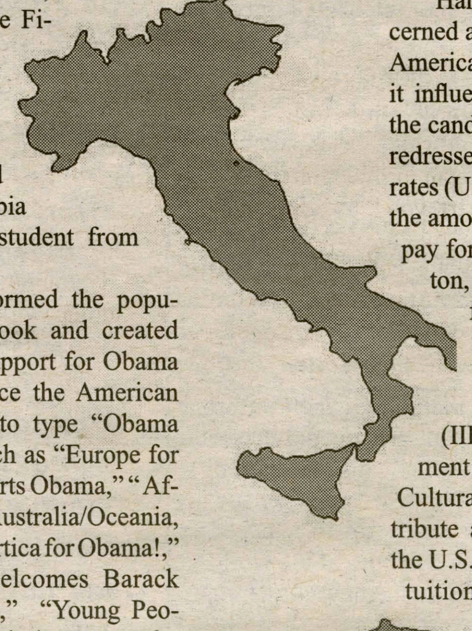
Another poll conducted in May 2008 for Telegraph.co.uk gave Obama 52 percent support across the five most important European countries, including Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Russia. McCain received only 15 percent of the vote. In Italy, 70 percent would vote for Obama if they could. In France, "historically the European country with the strongest anti-American sentiment, 65 percent would support Senator Obama." However, in Russia, where anti-American feeling is strongest, 24 percent of the Russians interviewed said they would vote for him if they could, with seven points behind Obama.



On the Hill, Professor of Government Alan Cafruny agrees that "Europeans are intensely interested in the U.S. elections. In general, they have been profoundly opposed to Bush admiistration policies, including the war in Iraq, environmental policy, and policy towards Israel. With the exceptions of Albania and Kosovo, it is fair to say that Europeans from one end of the political spectrum to the other live in one gigantic blue state and would vote overwhelmingly for Obama."

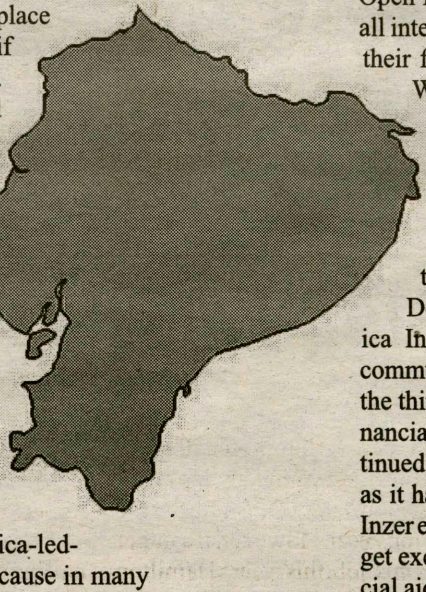


From France to Germany, Europeans like Obama as president because they like his image: he is young, supports Change and has different policies than Bush. When Obama clinched the democratic nomination, the European media swelled with excitement: "Oh ja, Obama" (Oh yes, Obama) (Germany - Der Süddeutschen Zeitung), "Der Dalai Obama" (The Dalai Obama) (Germany, Der Süddeutschen Zeitung), "Episch, historisch, einzigartig" (Epic, Historic, Unique) (Germany - Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung), "Obama: Mehr Softpower" (Obama: More Softpower) (Germany - Die Zeit), "Choix Obama: Révolution des mentalités" (The Choice of Obama: A revolution of mentalities) (France - Le Figaro), "Obama, candidat historique" (Obama, Historic Candidate) (France - Le Figaro). Even in Turkey, Obama is favored with the "comprehensive Turkish news on especially Obama," confessed Buket Coskuner (Columbia '10), an international student from Turkey.



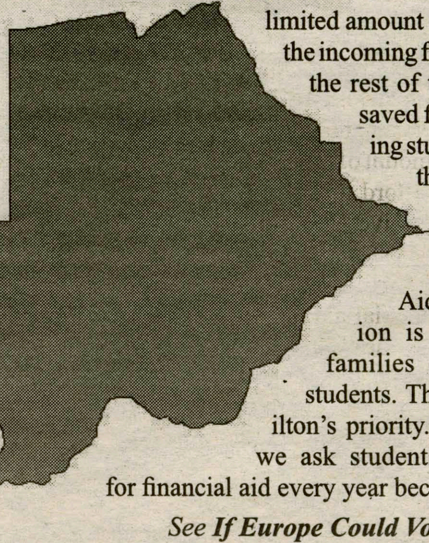
The Europeans stormed the popular (American!) Facebook and created groups to show their support for Obama with hopes to influence the American opinion. It is enough to type "Obama Europe" and groups such as "Europe for Barack," "Europe supports Obama," "Africa, America, Asia, Australia/Oceania, Europe, and Antartica for Obama!," "Europe welcomes Barack Obama," "Young People in Europe for Barack Obama," "France and Europe want Barack Obama for US President," "Greek supporters for OBAMA 2008," "Australia For Obama," "Ethiopians for Obama," "Denmark supports Barack Obama" and the list goes on. Type "McCain Europe" and most of the results describe Europe as the place of refuge for Americans if McCain wins the elections.

Hamilton study abroad students in France agree that the French are living an Obama craze. His book, The Audacity of Hope, is a best seller. His campaign slogans became modern art displayed on the gallery walls in the City of Lights (see "Barack Obama in Paris" exhibit on http:dorothysgallery.com). The French want to be friends with an-America-led-by-Monsieur-Obama, because in many regards they associate McCain with Bush.



Although many of the international students at Hamilton are Obama supporters, some would not hurry to endorse any candidate or are doing it with caution. Sakhile Matlhare '10, an international student from Botswana, confessed that although she would endorse Obama, she does this "with some reluctance, because for various reasons I think the Democrats and the Republicans are (to some extent) two sides of the same coin and picking one is not out of ideal preference but out of lack of other alternatives: to put it bluntly, the Democrats are the lesser of two evils." However, she stresses that the Democrats "do a better job of addressing the social-economic disparities" in America. Zeeshan Haider '09, an international student from Pakistan, confessed that he "would most definitely not endorse either of them," echoing other international students on campus who have pointed out the flaws of both candidates. Haider '09 added that "neither candidate is putting enough of an emphasis on detailed future plans for a sophisticated energy policy to, essentially, save industrialized society." He concluded, "neither candidate has much of a clue about how to handle the current financial and economic crisis."

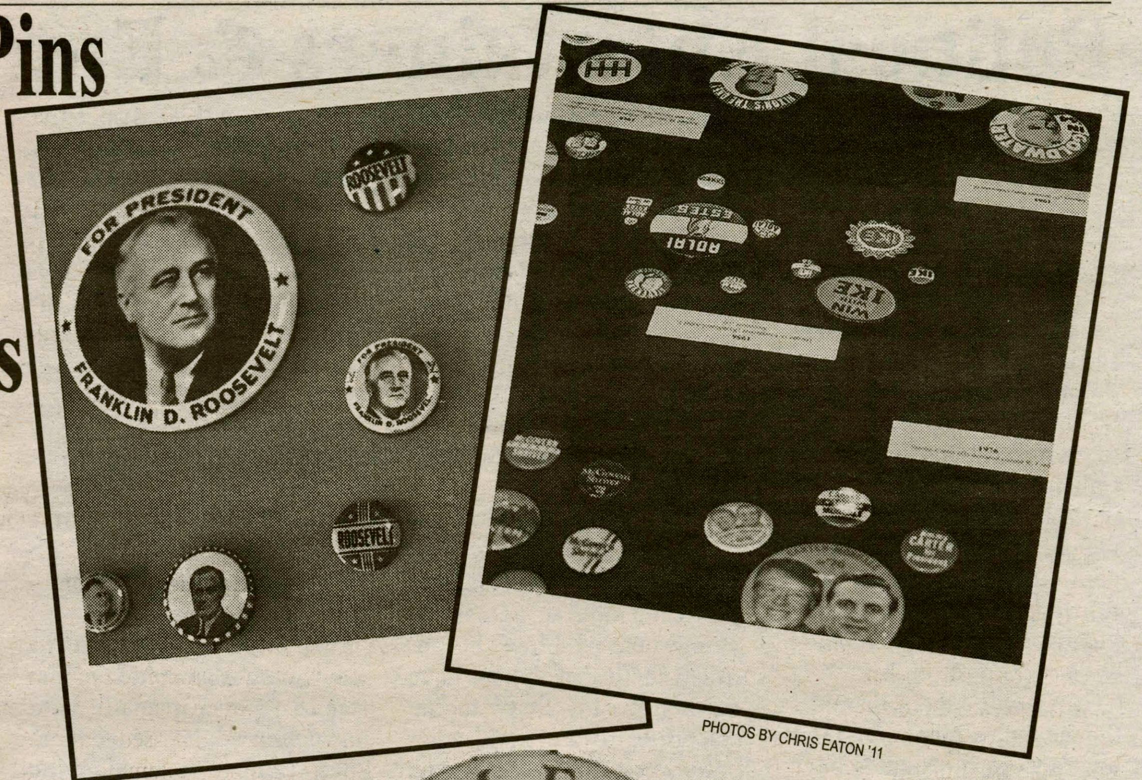
Hamilton international students are concerned as to how the candidates will handle the American financial crisis and, to some extent, it influences their choice in endorsing one of the candidates. If the American economy is not redressed, subsequent changes in the exchange rates (US dollar - home country currency) affect the amount the international students receive to pay for their tuition and living costs at Hamilton, especially if some of the funding comes from their home country's government and their families. According to the annual Open Doors report, published by the Institute of International Education (IIE) with support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, international students contribute approximately $14.5 billion dollars to the U.S. economy, through their expenditure on tuition and living expenses, including room, board, books, transportation and health insurance. According to the Department of Commerce, U.S higher education is "the country's fifth largest service sector export, as these students bring money into the national economy and provide revenue to their host states." Open Doors 2007 reports that "61.5 percent of all international students receive the majority of their funds from personal and family sources. When other sources of foreign funding are included, such as assistance from their home country governments or universities, a total of two thirds (66 percent) of all international students' primary funding comes from sources outside of the United States."



Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Monica Inzer assured the Hamilton international community that the school "strives to protect the things that are important," which include financial aid for the Hamilton students. She continued, "this is part of the heritage of Hamilton as it has always been a school of opportunity." Inzer explained that the current financial aid budget exceeds $23,000,000 and the average financial aid package is approximately $30,500. She added that "Hamilton assigns a limited amount of money for the incoming freshmen, and the rest of the money is saved for the returning students and for the Emergency Reserved Fund of Financial Aid. This cushion is to help the families of returning students. They are Hamilton's priority. This is why we ask students to reapply for financial aid every year because we

*See **If Europe Could Vote,** page 7*

Burke Library Presents Pins *From Past And Present* Presidential Elections



PHOTOS BY CHRIS EATON '11

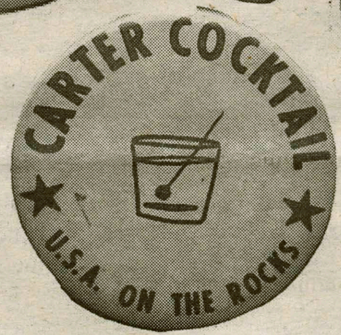
By Alison Turka '12
Features Writer

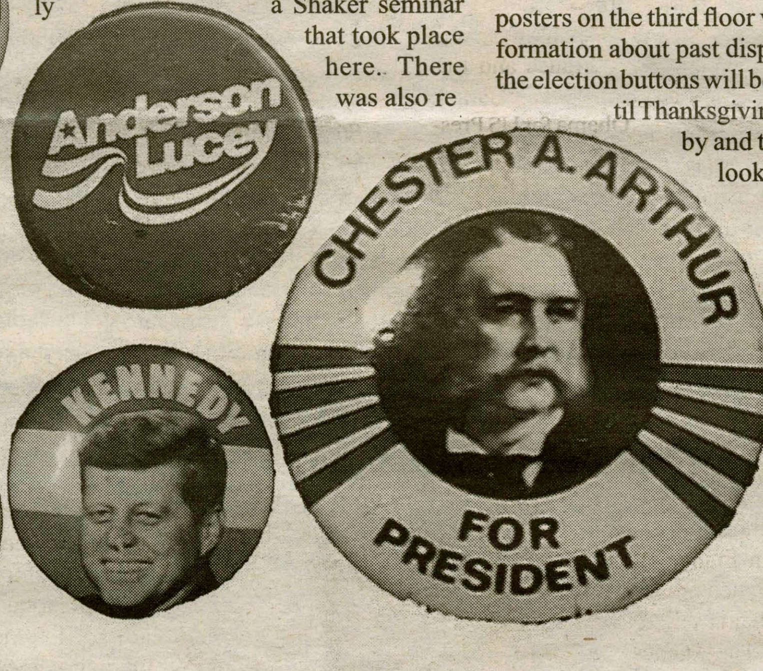
You may not have noticed it when walking into Burke Library; to the right, as you walk inside there are some display cases currently occupied with pins and buttons from past, and present, presidential elections. The display is a fun way to maintain awareness for the upcoming election. And for those who do not need the reminder, it is worthwhile to take a minute and stop by to see the paraphernalia. The progression of the buttons over the years is remarkable with the earliest one from 1840, for William Harrison. These earlier pins are hardly pins at all, but more like a small metal charm, similar to a coin. Starting in the 1860's the buttons start to look more like the pins from recent elections. Library director Randall Ericson's favorite pin is from 1964 Barry Goldwater's campaign with his slogan printed on it: "In your heart, you know he's right." The compilation of pins is partly from private collections, donations, and the library also has book dealers who keep an eye out for good display pieces. Some displays in the past have been about the Erie Canal and Ezra Pound, and they often corresponded with conferences or events taking place on campus. Over the summer there was a display about the nineteenth century communal group the Shakers, as there was a Shaker seminar that took place here. There was also recently a display set up by a student about Hamilton alumni doing work in East Asia. The displays in the library are a fun way to introduce a topic or event to students that they may or may not already by thinking about. Ericson's idea behind it is "to peak their curiosity about the subject, and our collections." If you want to learn more about the collections there are posters on the third floor with information about past displays or the election buttons will be up until Thanksgiving. Stop by and take look.

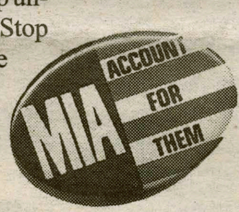
BUSH
QUAYLE
'92

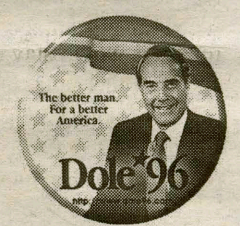
REAGAN
Let's make America great again

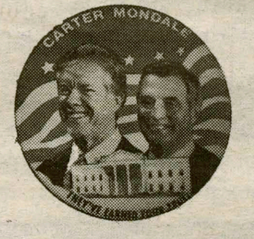
POSTMASTERS OUTING



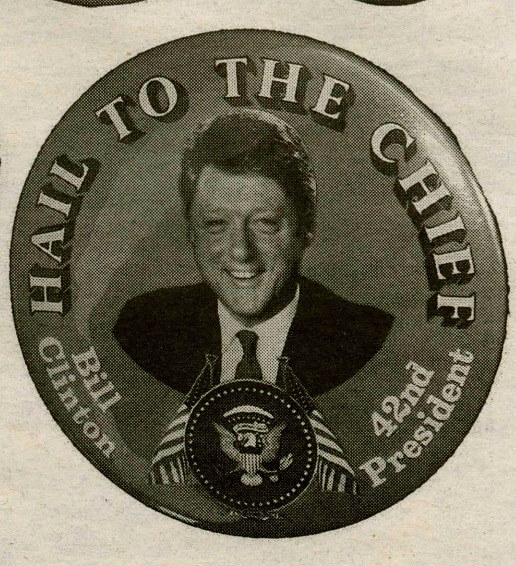








HARRY S. TRUMAN



If Europe Could Vote on November 4th ...

*From **Silent International Spectators**, page 6*

recognize that their needs change over the years." Due to the recent global financial crisis, the Financial Aid office is hearing every day from Hamilton families. Parents of returning students or prospective students, American and international, are concerned. For the international students, fluctuations of the exchange rate from one semester to another affect greatly the amount of money their parents can afford to pay or the funds they receive from foreign scholarships or from their own governments. Inzer explained that "first, the financial aid re-evaluates and freezes the exchange rates once a year so that they can use the most current data...if there are larger than usual fluctuations, we may consider revising that policy. Furthermore, if the need to receive more financial aid can be documented, Hamilton will make the adjustments. For example, we ask for the parents' earnings of the previous year. However, if a father loses his job this year, Hamilton will adjust his child's financial aid package." Inzer added, "Since September 1st, Hamilton adjusted the financial package of more than ten families due to home foreclosure, loss of employment, etc."

The U.S. elections do not influence only the international students' home countries' economies. Sofia Guerron '10, an international student from Ecuador, stressed, "that American politics play a huge role in the economy and social policy of Latin America." Guerron added, "the next American president would influence current decisions on free trade, foreign aid, and social issues, such as the war against drugs. I think that the diplomatic relations between the US and Latin America are more important now than ever."

Sakhile Matlhare '10 (Botswana) confessed, "I care about the U.S. elections because I am not naive enough to think that they do not affect me, presently or in the future, or other countries abroad." Zeeshan Haider '09 cares about the election as well, because "America is still the engine to global economic growth." He believes that "the current financial crisis really began in America and it must take the lead in sorting out the mess." As a Pakistani, he pays close attention to "U.S. foreign policy, particularly with regard to Pakistan and the Middle East."

What every international student seems to agree on is that the entire world wishes it could vote in this year's American election. Studying in the U.S., watching the presidential debates in the Science Center and talking with enthusiastic American students about their absentee ballots give the internationals the thrill of witnessing the elections "behind the scene" and not the filtered European or foreign version. Ana María Díaz '10 confessed that "as an international student from Colombia, experiencing the process of the elections in the US has been interesting because it is different in the way it is done back home (a candidate from each party is nominated, they hold debates etc.)." However, she confesses it can also get frustrating because even though "you form an opinion by making the effort to be informed about the candidates' policies and ponder who will be better for the future of the U.S. and for your own country, you cannot vote."

Guerron (Ecuador) added, "It's also frustrating to see that some American citizens are not as invested in the elections as they should be. A great deal of the social and economic development of third-world countries is determined by American policies. The future of many people is partially in the hands of American citizens."

After paying close attention to the elections, the global community seems to have made up its mind: The Facebook group "Dear USA, Vote Obama!/Your friend Europe" sums it up.

It is up to you, American reader, if you decide to listen or not.

Your Friend,
An international Student

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Political Entertainers & Entertaining Politicians

by Alex Ossola '10
Arts & Entertainment Writer

With so much hype about the upcoming presidential election, the line between entertainment and politics has been blurred. SNL makes fun of Sarah Palin, then Sarah Palin makes fun of herself on SNL; candidates use pop songs to promote themselves on the trail—and sometimes pay for it (such as the "Barracuda" incident); the website jibjab.com satirizes the current political scene in cute animated videos; the rapper Common even declared in his song "The People" that Obama is the next president. Of their own accord, musicians have hardly kept themselves out of the fray by publicly aligning themselves with one candidate or another and donating to the respective campaign. Some musicians who publicly support John McCain include Burt Bacharach and Daddy Yankee; supporters of Obama include Jackson Browne, the Goo Goo Dolls, Macy Gray, Ne-Yo, Will Smith, Usher, Stevie Wonder, Harry Connick Jr., will.i.am and the Black Eyed Peas, the Grateful Dead, Dave Matthews, Pearl Jam, R.E.M., Bruce Springsteen, and others.

The influence of pop culture on young voters is often estimated to be one of the most powerful tools to access the young demographic; the political tactics of appeal have reached new heights by adding celebrities to the mix, for better or for worse. MTV's "Rock the Vote" campaign uses the influence of celebrities to increase the participation of young voters. While igniting the involvement of ambivalent teens is generally considered a positive aspiration, there is also a dark side: these young voters are often more easily influenced by other people and deliberate less about their own views than do older people. On the gossip website Idolator, musicians' presidential choices are posted, to which blogger "Diglett" responded, "I wish I knew about the Goo Goo Dolls [support for Obama] before voting this morning [in the primaries]."

The importance of celebrity opinions as a make-or-break deciding tool for American voters is an epidemic that seems to hit especially hard on young adults. Students at Hamilton acknowledge the power of celebrities, but would not be inclined to change their political affiliations because of it. When asked whether musicians' opinions would affect his vote, Brian Mizoguchi '11 replied, "It depends on the character of and my respect for the musician, but probably not. In my mind, that's the least important thing to consider when choosing a candidate."

Lindsay Shankman '12, a self-declared moderate, responded, "I don't think it would affect my opinion. But I do think it's a good thing for them [celebrities] to voice their opinions because, although they're not political figures, they are more knowledgeable in politics."

But should celebrities be allowed to voice their opinions? Because they hold so much cultural power, should they be more responsible and bipartisan? Many students on the Hill believe that the broadcasting of musicians' political views is permissible. Said Lisa Fontes '09, who voted for Obama but is a registered Republican, "Musicians have as much a right to express their political opinions as anyone else, but a musician's opinion shouldn't affect someone's vote. People should think for themselves and vote based on their own politics and beliefs rather than those expressed by others." Unfortunately, the final polls will not prove whether or not celebrities' influence is the deciding factor for the victory of one candidate over the other.

Because Obama has more celebrity support, his "marketing" applies more to the younger demographics, but not all voters are so easily swayed. Young adults at Hamilton seem to withstand the pressure from the media to conform to musicians' political affiliations, but others may be more susceptible to the marketing targeted directly at their age group.

Convention Performances Can Promote Unity

by Rachel Pohl '11
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Music has long acted as an outlet to express new ideas, reinforce popular ideologies, or rebel against the status quo. Music connects complete strangers through a unifying message, lyrics, and rhythms, creating a community of listeners who can, in some cases, rally behind a particular cause.

This year's election is something that many musicians have been singing about, using music to show support for either Barack Obama or John McCain. Performances at both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions served to rally people behind the presidential nominees.

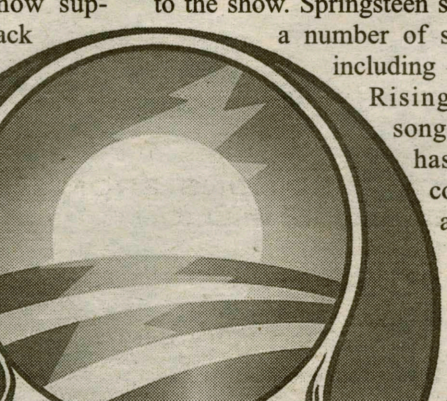


PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.PASTEMAGAZINE.COM

The Grateful Dead have voiced their support of Obama.

Recent musical performances endorsing candidates have done the same.

Recently, the surviving members of the Grateful Dead performed a concert in support of Barack Obama. Over 15,000 people gathered at the Pennsylvania State University stage to hear the four remaining members of the Grateful Dead—Bob Weir, Phil Lesh, Bill Kreutzmann, and Mickey Hart—perform their classic hits, such as "Truckin," to back Obama's visions of change for the future. Gathering to play for the first time since a 2004 reunion tour, the four remaining members helped to rouse voter outreach efforts in a battleground state.

The Grateful Dead is not the only band endorsing Barack Obama. On October 16, legendary rock stars Billy Joel and Bruce Springsteen performed a joint concert, "Change Rocks," to show their support for Obama. Nearly 2,000 people attended the concert, including Obama himself; some splurged as much as $10,000 for a ticket to the show. Springsteen sang a number of songs including "The Rising," a song that has become an unofficial anthem for Obama, and "Hail to the Chief," a song which honors Obama's aspirations.

Famous folk singer James Taylor joined the campaign efforts as he scheduled five free concerts for the endorsement of Obama. He played in Charlotte, Asheville, Wilmington, Chapel Hill, and Raleigh, North Carolina in an effort to encourage Obama supporters to rally and vote early. Because North Carolina is a Republican state—a state that has not voted for a Democratic president since 1976—holding events in support of Obama is vital.

The Democratic National Convention, held in Denver, Colorado featured a number of famous performers including Jennifer Hudson, Sheryl Crow, Stevie Wonder, and Michael McDonald. Everclear and the Flobots, a band coming to Hamilton in November, also showed their support by playing at the Democratic National Convention.

While John McCain has not received as many endorsements from popular mainstream musicians as has Obama, musicians have been encouraging his campaign. Puerto Rican hip-hop star and Latin-Grammy winning Daddy Yankee held a concert in support of McCain in late August. Daddy Yankee was quoted as saying, "I believe in McCain's ideals…he has been a fighter for the Hispanic community." Singing his hit song "Gasolina," crowds gathered, enjoyed the reggaeton music, and rallied behind McCain.

The Republican National Convention had some memorable performances. Phil Alongi Jr., a legendary opera singer, kicked off the Republican convention by singing the national anthem. In addition, country music star John Rich has been a big supporter of McCain and played his new song 'Raising McCain' at the his convention. In his song, Rich sings, "We're all just raisin' McCain...everywhere across the USA." Other artists at the convention included Brett James and Greg Laswell.

Whether they are in support of John McCain or Barack Obama, musicians serve an important purpose in the election process.

No matter the party, the promotion of political involvement and education and unification should have a positive outcome.

CAMPAIGN HOROSCOPES

BY STEVE ALLINGER
STAFF SEER

Barack Obama, Leo: Like the mighty Lion that represents your sign, you must seek prey that is sickly and old to tear into with your progressive canines. John McCain is like a conservative, disoriented water buffalo that spent the best years of its life in a Vietcong Prisoner-of-war camp. When you pierce his leathery hide with your hope-filled claws, there is little chance that he will break your skull with a stray hoof laden with family values. I apologize, I have watched far more animal planet than election coverage this year.

Joe Biden, Scorpio: Nobody cares about you. Get a real job.

John McCain, Virgo: Ok let's get things straight right now: if you get elected, YOU HAVE TO STAY ALIVE. I know you would like nothing more than to shed your mortal coils and soar into the afterlife like a majestic phoenix, but if you do, Osama bin Laden will somehow end up impregnating Piper Palin and America will implode. This is not actually a horoscope.

Sarah Palin, Aquarius: In the words of political pundit Danny Devito, a woman in politics is like a donkey trying to do calculus. What the stars are trying to say is... you're pretty...

SPORTS

Sarah Palin Drops the Ceremonial Puck to Open Flyers Game

ESPN Coverage of the Presidential Election Connects Politics to the National Sports Scene

by Andrew Harris '11
Sports Writer

PHOTO COURTESY OF HTTP://MSN.FOXSPORTS.COM/NHL/STORY/8663888/PALIN-DROPS-PUCK-IN-PHILLY

Sarah Palin has become the self-declared leader of hockey moms across the country.

On October 11, vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin dropped the puck at an NHL game between the Philadelphia Flyers and the New York Rangers in Philadelphia. Palin was invited as a part of a promotion by the Flyers to celebrate the "Ultimate Hockey Mom." Palin, however, was met with a mix of boos and polite applause, which caused a stir in the athletic and political communities.

Sports and politics have always had a tenuous relationship, with some preferring to keep the spheres as separate as possible. In Philadelphia, a historically liberal city, booing Palin was not altogether unexpected, although many thought it was in poor taste. By dropping the puck, Palin was not necessarily making a political statement, but her increased exposure and publicity certainly were intended to support her campaign.

Sports networks and companies are very careful to avoid bringing controversial political opinions into their work. ESPN, for example, is decidedly apolitical, not wanting to appear to favor either side. When they brought Barack Obama on for an interview on SportsCenter, they followed a week later with an interview with John McCain, after heavy criticism. Much of the criticism complained that ESPN, as a sports network, was not qualified to talk about politics, and should keep its opinions to itself.

If this standard were adopted across television and the news, then politics would garner much less attention than it does now. Since ESPN deals with sports—leisure activities, in effect—critics allege that real-world issues of policy have no bearing. When politics are discussed on The View or Oprah, however, no one raises any concerns. This double standard exists as a commentary on the role of sports in society, and one that ESPN and other networks have simply reinforced by refusing to deal with politics.

Moreover, sports and politics have a special relationship. Many former sports figures have become politicians, like Bill Bradley, Tom Osborne, and Heath Shuler. Current President Bush himself is an avid sports fan, and used to be part-owner of the MLB's Texas Rangers. Both Obama and McCain care about sports, and have even shown their allegiance to specific teams, like Obama and the Chicago White Sox. Instead of seeing these interests and relationships as frivolous, the candidates and the media should embrace an interest in activities that affect so many Americans.

Although there are certainly more important issues to deal with both domestically and abroad, an appreciation of a culture that permeates American society couldn't hurt Obama or McCain when connecting with their supporters. In the current climate, many people who don't know that much about politics but follow sports become disinterested in the political process. Bridging the gap between sports and politics could be a way to reach out to this small but significant percentage of America.

The link between sports and politics should not be overvalued, however. ESPN should not suddenly endorse a candidate or air campaign speeches. Rather, a few more stories on how political actions affect sports and the people who play them would go a long way towards getting more people interested in both sports and politics. A fear of the relationship between leisure and politics does not mean the elimination of political dialogue in sports, but rather a careful examination of the role that politics can have in sports, and that sports can have in politics.

BARACK OBAMA

AGE: 47

HEIGHT: 6 FT 2 INCHES

FAVORITE SPORT: BASKETBALL

FAVORITE TEAMS: CHICAGO BEARS AND CHICAGO WHITE SOX

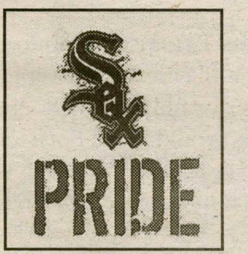
CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PROFESSIONAL SPORTS OWNERS: $615,000

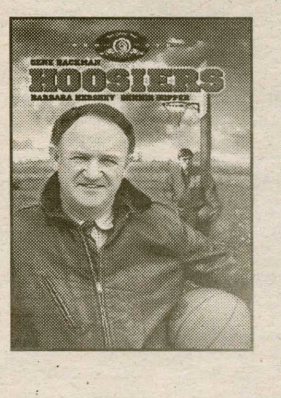
FAVORITE SPORTS MOVIE: HOOSIERS

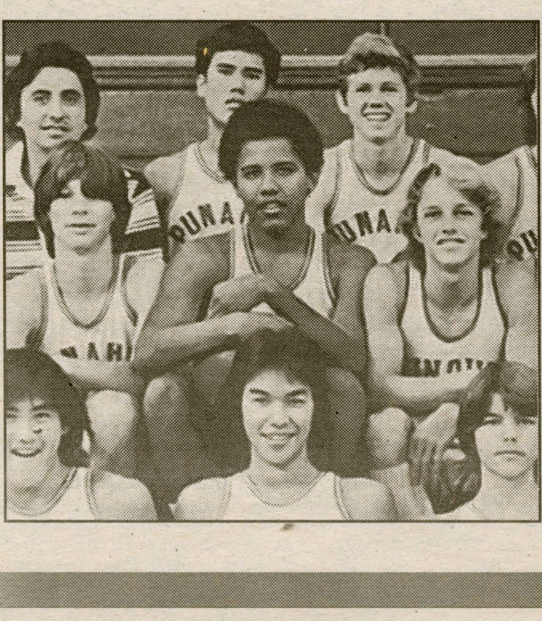
FAVORITE ATHLETE: DR. J (JULIUS ERVING)

IF AN ATHLETE WERE TO BE HIS RUNNING MATE IT WOULD BE... WALTER PAYTON OR MICHAEL JORDAN

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF? YES







JOHN MCCAIN

AGE: 72

HEIGHT: 5 FT 6 INCHES

FAVORITE SPORT:BOXING

FAVORITE TEAMS: ARIZONA CARDINALS AND ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS

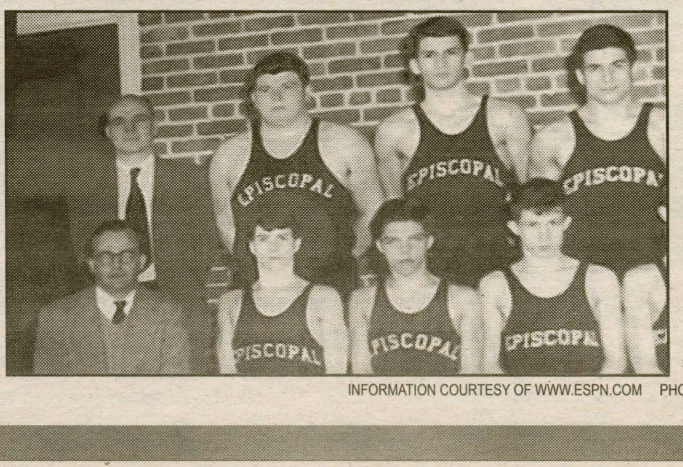
CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PROFESSIONAL SPORTS OWNERS: $3.2 MILLION

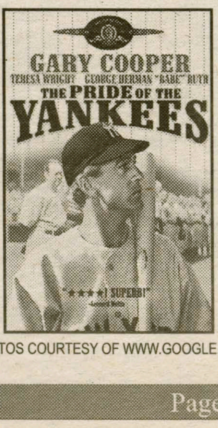
FAVORITE SPORTS MOVIE: PRIDE OF THE YANKEES

FAVORITE ATHLETE:TED WILLIAMS

IF AN ATHLETE WERE TO BE HIS RUNNING MATE IT WOULD BE...BRETT FAVRE

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF? YES




GARY COOPER
TERESA WRIGHT GEORGE HERMAN "BABE" RUTH
THE PRIDE OF THE YANKEES

INFORMATION COURTESY OF WWW.ESPN.COM PHOTOS COURTESY OF WWW.GOOGLE.COM

Tuition Rising Faster Than Political Action

by Kate Tummarello '11
Insights & Ideas Editor

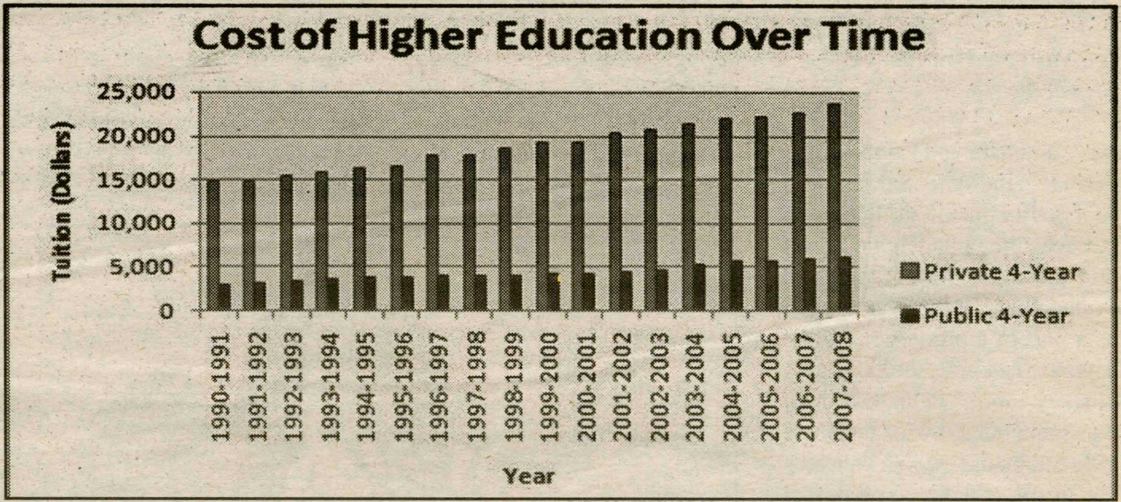
Every year the cost of attending college here at Hamilton increases. For the 2007-2008 school year, tuition and room and board (including the 21-meal plan) costs totaled $46,210. For this year, these costs have risen to $48,410.

Although we joke about our money going to waterfalls and lobsters for Pub Lunch, our money does pay for important things, such as construction projects on campus and the salaries for the staff and faculty. Still, the lofty cost of higher education makes it extremely difficult for some people to attend a school like Hamilton.

This problem of the rising cost of higher education occurs off the Hill as well. The average tuition for private four-year institutions has risen $5,889 (in 2007 dollars) in the last ten years. Similarly, the cost of attending a public four-year institution has risen $2,163 (in 2007 dollars) in the last ten years.

These rising costs force many looking for a college education to take out loans. According to CollegeBoard, more than six million students borrow money to go to college every year, leaving

*see **Candidates**, page 11*



DATA COURTESY OF COLLEGEBOARD.COM, IMAGE CREATED BY KATE TUMMARELLO '11

The graph above shows the rise in tuition and room and board costs over the last 18 years in 2007 dollars. Despite the obvious increase in cost, the government is doing little to make it affordable for students to attend college.

Charting the Candidates' Policies on Education

by Laura Jackelen '10
Alyssa Kanagaki '10
Lauren Pudalov '10
Insights & Ideas Contributors
and Brandon Leibsohn '10
Sports Editor

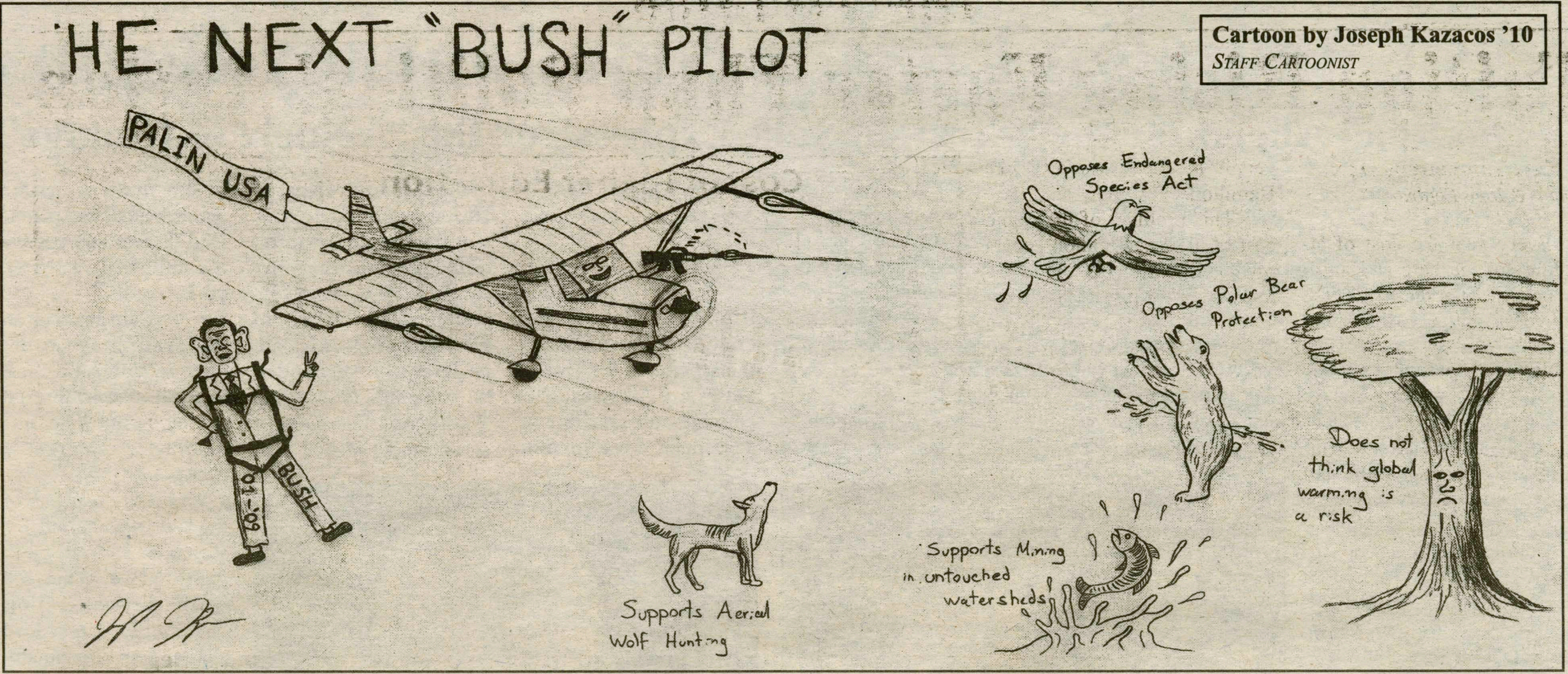
As a component of our Issues and Education Class, we were assigned to research the differences between the education platforms proposed by the Presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain.

We decided to focus on the issue of the teacher crisis that American schools are facing today. More specifically, we narrowed our discussion to the topics of teacher recruitment, teacher certification, teacher funding, and teacher mentoring.

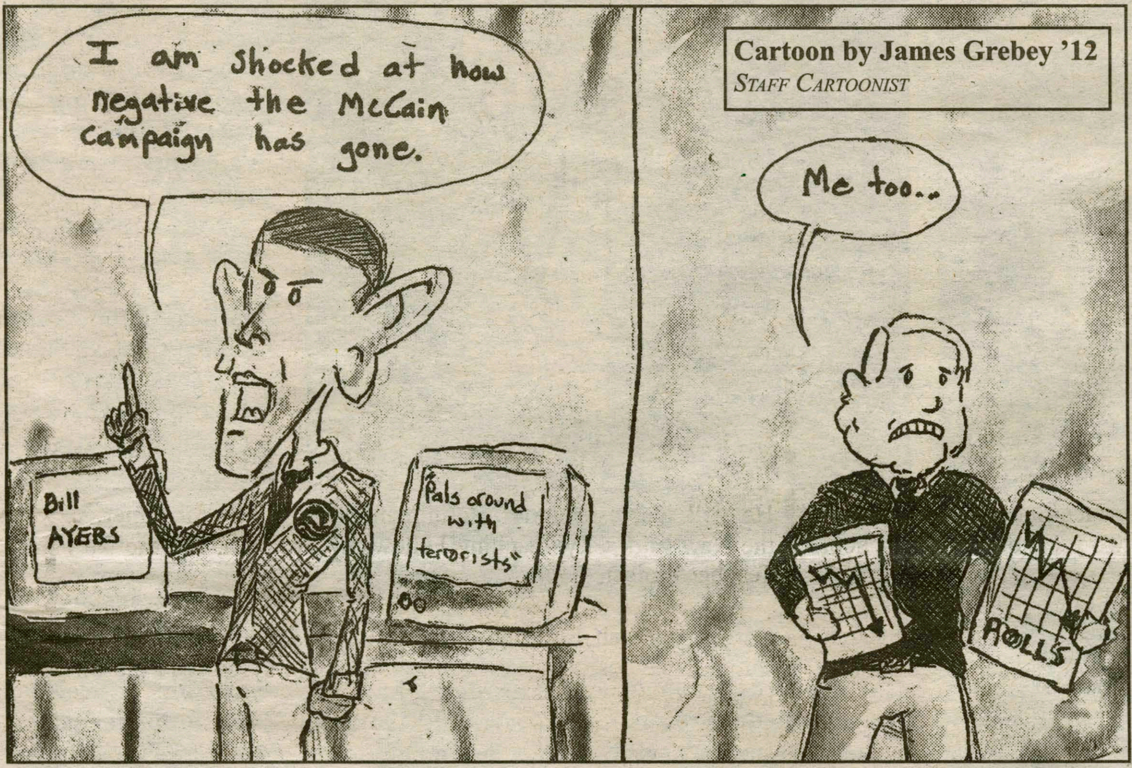
Tune in to a special edition of Corn on the Cob on WHCL on Wednesday October 29 at 11 a.m. for more information.

Issue	Barack Obama	John McCain
Attracting Future Teachers	He wants to create a new Teacher Service Scholarship that will cover four years of undergraduate or two years of graduate school at any college or university. He will recruit math and science graduates to the field of education and will support efforts to help these teachers learn from professionals in the field. He will also work to ensure a strong science curriculum for all grades, hire 30,000 math, science and special education teachers a year, and promote technology and engineering.	He will increase higher recruitment from Teach for America, the New York City Teaching Fellowship Program, and the New Teacher Project. Currently Teach for America hosts this number of teachers in some of the best and worst educated school systems in the following states: NY: 1,000 CA: 554 MS: 162 MA: N/A He will direct $250 million through a competitive grant program to support states that commit to expanding online education opportunities such as online math and science courses.
Teacher Certification	He will require all schools to be accredited on a national and state basis. Each teacher will have the opportunity to receive a voluntary national performance assessment of their performance through peer feedback.	He believes it is too hard to certify teachers in the current system and proposes that alternative certification methods would help end the teacher shortage. Specifically, he would accept teachers directly out of college and use internships to gauge the quality of their performance. He was a strong supporter of the Troops to Teachers Improvement Act of 2007, which waives teacher state certification tests for soldiers directly out of the military who are entering the field of teaching.
Teacher Funding	In 2005, he voted for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act amendment that would allocate $2.5 billion to education finance incentive grants. He wants to award $8,000 to teachers who improve student performance over the academic year. These rewards would be distributed based on peer reviews as opposed to standardized test scores. Obama also supports salary incentives for teachers who work in challenging neighborhoods. He plans to put forth $19 billion in new education spending, most of which will go to early education.	In 2005, McCain voted against the Elementary and Secondary Education Act amendment that would have allocated $2.5 billion to education finance incentive grants. He wants to reallocate 35 percent of Title II funding to focus on the needs of schools and 60 percent of Title II funding to pay for incentive bonuses given to high performing teachers in hard-to-staff schools. The school principals would make decisions about the bonuses. The remaining 5 percent of Title II funding would go to states that recruit teachers in the top 25 percent of their class. McCain believes that competition among teachers will lead to higher quality teaching. McCain also favors teacher competency pay, and sees test scores as the way to decide incentives.
Teacher Mentoring	Obama wants to expand mentoring by pairing experienced teachers with new recruits, especially in hard-to-staff areas. He also supports common planning time for teachers to share effective classroom strategies.	In 2000, McCain voted against a $2.2 billion amendment that would have funded teacher-mentoring programs. Instead, he focuses on professional development of teachers, with an emphasis on technology.

INFORMATION COURTESY OF //WWW.BARACKOBAMA.COM/ISSUES/EDUCATION/,WWW.EDVOTERS.ORG/QUIZ/DOWNLOADS/COMPARISON.PDF, WWW.JOHNMCCAIN.COM/INFORMING/NEWS/PRESSRELEASES/READ.ASPX?GUID=2CA6F926-4564-4301-87CD-A5F35E68C0D4, /WWW.VOTESMART.ORG/ISSUE_KEYVOTE_DETAIL.PHP?CS_ID=V3661&CAN_ID=9490, WWW.NSEA-NV.ORG/DOCUMENTS/MCCAINVOTINGRECORD72408.PDF,WWW.PBS.ORG/NEWSHOUR/EXTRA/FEATURES/US/JULY-DEC08/EDUCATION_9-12.HTML, AND WWW.TEACHFORAMERICA.ORG/ABOUT/REGIONS/INDEX.HTM>.


HE NEXT "BUSH" PILOT
PALIN USA
BUSH
01-'09
Opposes Endangered Species Act
Opposes Polar Bear Protection
Does not think global warming is a risk
Supports Mining in untouched watersheds
Supports Aerial Wolf Hunting

Cartoon by Joseph Kazacos '10
Staff Cartoonist


I am shocked at how negative the McCain campaign has gone.
Bill AYERS
"Pals around with terrorists"
Me too...
POLLS

Cartoon by James Grebey '12
Staff Cartoonist

Thumbs up	Thumbs down	Who Cares?
If McCain and Palin come to your town, they'll claim it's so patriotic that Captain America retired there. That's right, my friends, he's not dead. In fact, he's currently baking apple pie and enjoying the strong economy. Not only can Barack Obama raise his hands over his head, he sets a mean pick. Nancy Reagan: SWF, age 87, looking for play... Please mind pelvis. Oliver Stone's "W": While fewer than 20% of Hamilton students support George W. Bush, 96% report that they would have partied with him in the 1970s.	In a desperate attempt to gain more air time, John McCain will star in the next Viagra commercial. With apologies to Cindy, Sarah Palin will portray the wife guaranteed to give him a hard-on. Joe the Plumber: The only plumbers I can relate to are the stout Italian ones who fight lizards, eat mushrooms and throw fireballs. Barack Obama's first-hand experience in dealing with terrorists. On Saturdays, he and Osama play beach volleyball in the Pakistani desert. Supporters at McCain/Palin rallies suggest killing Obama. The Obama-faithful cannot hope for the same with McCain, as he has been a member of the Undead since before Christ.	Neighboring Russia: Technically, I neighbor the Darkside but its policies remain strange and confusing to me. Clean coal: Let me know when we can run a power station on fingers and fries. If Barack Obama is an elitist who's dabbled in powder cocaine, what does that make former D.C. mayor Marion Barry? Sarah Palin's wardrobe costs 150K. All that money on clothes for mommy, but no birth control for poor little Bristol.

by Anthony DelConte '10, Matt Fellows '09 & Thomas Yarnell '10

Candidates Acknowledge Rising Tuition Problem

*from **Tuition**, page 10*

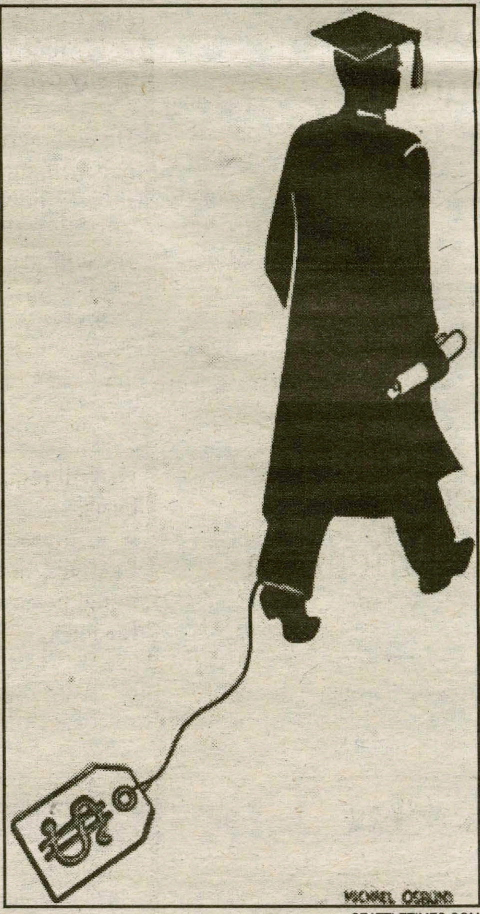
them with an average of $20,000 in debt after college. This debt puts financial strain on students who attend graduate school or enter the declining job market after college.

Despite these rising costs, we all still decide to attend college. The increasingly competitive nature of the college application process ensures that every college has a student body that is willing to pay the high tuition and room and board fees. It seems absurd that we all spent part of our senior year of high school writing essays and embellishing on the Common Application just to attain a spot in the next class of first years at Hamilton. Once accepted, we have to pay almost fifty thousand dollars to lose sleep and have our morale crushed by the classes we take. We do because we understand that our prospects would be pretty bleak if we didn't.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median weekly salary of someone who had a bachelor's degree was $383 higher than someone who only had a high school diploma in 2007. Additionally, the person with only a high school diploma was twice as likely to be unemployed. Although most see the benefits of going to college, the impossibly high cost can deter some people from obtaining a college education.

Both Senators John McCain and Barack Obama have platforms that address this rising cost. Obama has proposed granting $4,000 tax credits to college students who complete 100 hours of community service. While Obama's tax credit will account for a substantial amount of the cost of attending public institutions, those of us who will pay about $200,000 over four years will only be assisted minimally.

Similarly, McCain's proposals consist of only cutting "pork barrel projects" to provide more funding to research and improving the systems through which students receive financial aid and tax benefits. While it is admirable that both candidates admit that there is a problem in the financial obstacles that exist when it comes to attending college, it is obvious that neither has the solution to the problem.



SEATTLETIMES.COM

This cartoon from *The Seattle Times* forces us to ask what kind of price tag we are willing to put on education.

INSIGHTS & IDEAS

As Campaign Ends, a New Journey Begins

The Road Ahead for the "Straight Talk Express" or the "Vehicle of Change"

by Will Leubsdorf '10
Insights & Ideas Writer

I fully expect Barack Obama to disappoint me if elected President. This has nothing to do with the quality of Obama or his polices; rather it is a reflection of the dire situation he will inherit in January 2009. The economy is in shambles, and while Iraq is improving, the military situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan is deteriorating at a frightening pace. The federal budget deficit is astronomically high thanks to eight years of President Bush's economic mismanagement and the flawed Paulson bailout plan. Obama will have neither the time nor the money to implement all the policies he has proposed during the course of the campaign.

Despite my pessimism, I have total faith in Barack Obama's ability to lead this country during this perilous time. Throughout this campaign, Obama has shown steadiness in situations where many politicians would have panicked. After John McCain selected Sarah Palin, many Democrats (including myself) questioned the Obama campaign's strategy. Obama ignored us doubters, keeping an even-keel and sticking to his successful strategy. While McCain flailed around during the economic crisis, lurching from gimmick to gimmick, Obama had a calm and deliberative demeanor, coolly approaching the situation like a President.

This is exactly the type of leadership we need now as we deal with the variety of problems facing this country, a consistent intellectual strength through the fiercest of storms. Obama's style is a welcome contrast to that of George W. Bush and John McCain, the go with your gut, impulsive decision- making that led to disasters like the Iraq War. Obama has shown during this grueling campaign season how he will approach problems: intelligently examining crises and working with qualified experts to arrive at a workable solution.

Most importantly, Obama will turn the page on the failed polices and political culture of the last eight years. For too long, critical issues like health care, climate change, and rising income inequality have been ignored in Washington. The bar we set for ourselves as a nation is so low that flawed accomplishments, like the Wall Street bailout, are considered major successes. What makes us uniquely American is how we dream big, striving towards bold solutions even if we risk failure. That spirit has been lost in modern American politics, as it has been consumed by pettiness.

The scope of the problems are too great, and the stakes too high for the culture of petty partisanship. Obama will not change this culture overnight, but I believe with his vision and political skills that he can reorient our nation's sights upward and forward, turning our focus away from past grievances and towards the possibilities of the future. I feel optimistic about an Obama Presidency because as Thomas Jefferson best stated, ""I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past."

READWRITENOW.WORDPRESS.COM

by Tim Minella '09
Insights & Ideas Contributor

For his entire adult life, John McCain has committed himself to the service of the United States of America. His courage and sacrifice as a prisoner of war in Vietnam revealed his noble character, and his record in Congress has been one of independence and principle. If elected President, McCain will work with both parties to clean up Washington and make America more secure.

In his career as a congressman and senator, McCain has demonstrated that he will work with both Republicans and Democrats to achieve real change. He led the charge for campaign finance reform against the wishes of many in his own party. He fought for comprehensive immigration reform, defying the Republican base. When markets plummeted in response to the credit crisis, McCain unilaterally suspended his campaign to return to Washington and forge a compromise rescue bill. As President, McCain will govern with the same independent mindset that places progress before petty politics.

McCain's choice of Sarah Palin as running mate further emphasizes his reform agenda. Just as Palin took on an entrenched Republican machine in Alaska, a McCain presidency will work to fight corruption and reduce wasteful spending. McCain has consistently opposed earmarking federal funds for pet projects in lawmakers' home states, and he has promised to veto any spending bill with wasteful pork.

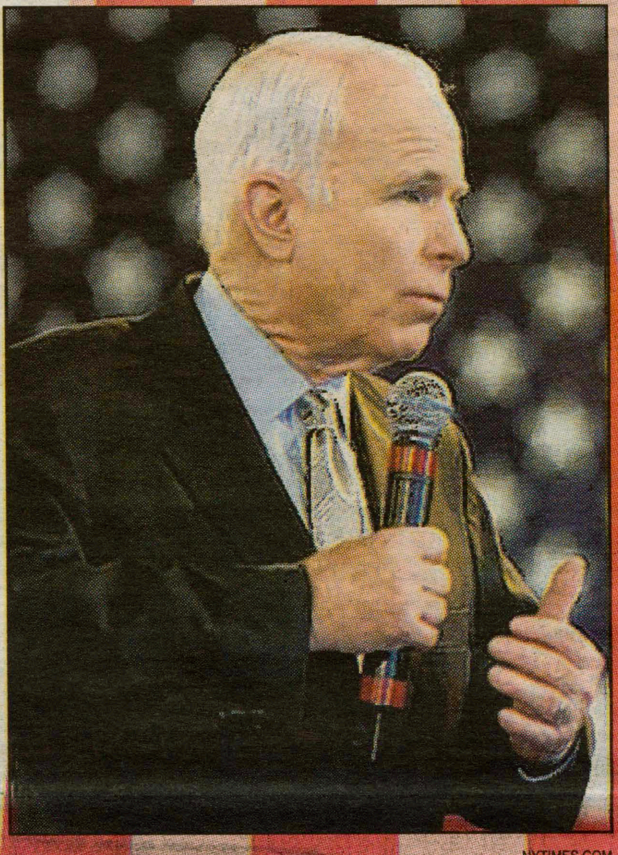
McCain has been an independent voice not only in domestic matters but also in foreign policy, where he has displayed remarkable prescience.

McCain was one of the few who called for a change of strategy in the Iraq War. When the Bush Administration obstinately refused to change course and many in Congress wanted to cut and run, McCain advocated for a surge in troop levels to carry out General David Petraeus's counterinsurgency strategy.

Now, almost two years after the surge began, security has returned to Iraq, and American forces have started to withdraw. McCain's leadership prevented an American defeat and provided the people of Iraq with another chance for peace.

Americans can thus count on McCain to provide the independent leadership critical for these turbulent times. McCain has been tested over and over again, in war and in the political sphere.

In McCain, Americans have a candidate with a lifetime of experience that has prepared him well for the highest office in the land. His record shows that he will govern independently for the greater good, not for his own glory or his party's political advantage.


NYTIMES.COM

The Socialists: A Real Party for the Working American

by Chris Batchelder '10
Insights & Ideas Contributor

The contest between Senators Barack Obama and John McCain boils down to a discussion between two imperialists on how to better run imperialism. While McCain supports the continuation of Bush's policies, Obama's platform shows none of the high-sounding promises he has made. Neither candidate has proposed an effective health care plan or promotes long-term solutions to the plight of working-class Americans, and both candidates are in favor of further aggression against other countries.

Barack Obama, the candidacy of empty rhetoric and false promises, and John McCain, the candidacy of belligerent bluster: both represent a defense of the status quo, both represent capitalism.

Presently, political power is restricted to the small and rich minority, those who own private property. The working class has been deprived of a voice in American politics, and have no state power. As a result, the capitalist class has, through its control of the government, enriched itself at the expense of everyone else. The best indicator of future behavior is past behavior. Like the Republicans before them, the Democrats, in spite of holding Congress for the past two years, have done nothing to alleviate the plight of working-class Americans and their pay-raise cannot even keep pace with inflation, much less living costs. Obama has only proposed petty tax cuts, as if they are the answer to the decades-long consolidation of wealth which was encouraged under both Republican and Democratic administrations. Both capitalist candidates offer nothing but more of the same, only with different labels and rationales.

Capitalism profits from war and exploitation, and thus both capitalist parties have promoted exactly that. The answer is not to ask capitalism to reform itself, the answer is to overthrow it entirely. Instead of capitalist minority rule, we must struggle for the economic and political liberation of the working class. Only then, freed from the chains of profit and capital, can we establish truly universal healthcare, education, democracy and human dignity for the whole of humanity.

Socialism offers far more than marginal and insignificant reform, it offers the complete reorganization of society along collective lines. Socialism puts the control of communities into the hands of their inhabitants and control of the workplaces into the hands of their workers. With the abolition of capitalism comes progress, and while the capitalists fear this, it is precisely what socialists struggle for in every part of the world.

The socialist movement supports the tickets of working-class candidates for president. The Socialist Workers Party, running on the presidential ticket of Róger Calero and Alyson Kennedy, is leading electoral campaigns to promote revolutionary change (see themilitant.com for more information). Upholding the examples of the Russian and Cuban Revolutions, socialists around the world continue to oppose imperialism and further the interests of the workers. Workers of the world, unite!